

**REMARKS**

Entry of the foregoing pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312 is respectfully requested.

By the present Amendment, the continuing application data in this application have been updated to reflect the issuance of U.S. Patent 6,172,281 from parent application 09/176,320, and the issuance of U.S. Patent 5,866,784 from grandparent application 08/465,609. The continuing data has also been amended to reflect the fact that ancestor application 07/640,400 was originally filed as PCT/EP90/00905, and to show Applicants' foreign priority claim. No new matter has been added.

A recent review of Applicants' file in this case revealed that the priority claim made when the application was filed has not been acknowledged. Enclosed as evidence of that priority claim are (a) a copy of the Request for Filing Continuation/Divisional Application, filed in the present case on September 13, 2000, in which the priority claim in the present case is set forth at p. 3; (b) a copy of the original signed declaration as filed in parent application 07/640,400, showing Applicants' claim of priority to PCT/EP90/00905 and GV 89401499; and (c) the cover page of U.S. Patent 6,172,281, which issued from the parent of the present application (Serial No. 09/176,320), which shows the priority claim in that case to be the same as that made by Applicants in the present case.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: January 16, 2004

By:

  
Malcolm K. McGowan, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 39,300

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620